

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	ORDER OF
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	SUMMARY SUSPENSION
)	
Certification of Daniel Gregory Vaught)	
)	
Certificate #114459)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 13, 2004. The State Department of Education (Department) will send a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate #114459 (certificate) to Mr. Daniel Gregory Vaught by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. In the interim in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. §1-23-370(c) (1986), the Department requested that the State Board summarily suspend Mr. Vaught's certificate until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved. The Department has reason to believe, due to the nature of the misconduct that led to Mr. Vaught's arrest on March 12, 2004, that Mr. Vaught may pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students that may be under his instruction. This summary suspension will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a summary suspension pending due process proceedings. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to summarily suspend Mr. Vaught's certificate until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved.

Mr. Vaught holds a valid South Carolina certificate and has over twenty-six years of teaching experience credit. Mr. Vaught was employed as an agriculture teacher at Hartsville High School with the Darlington County School District (District) for the 2003 – 2004 school year. He was placed on administrative leave in October 2003 when the District learned he was

being investigated by the Darlington County Sheriff's Office for allegations of pornography. On March 12, 2004, Mr. Vaught was arrested and served with eighteen counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor. Mr. Vaught has since retired from the District.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes: "immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; unprofessional conduct; and crime against the law of this State or the United States." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1992). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (1986), "If the agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." The State Board finds that there is reason to believe that Mr. Vaught may pose a threat to the welfare of students that may be under his instruction. Accordingly, the State Board thereby summarily suspends Mr. Vaught's certificate # 114459 until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones
Mary E. Jones
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 13, 2004